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GLEANINGS OF NATURAL HISTORY
IN IRELAND.

No. 1.



A bird, of which the above is a correct delineation, was shot about two or three years since in Lord Powerscourt's demesne, where it was flying about with some swallows, and is now stuffed in the collection of a gentleman in this city. In size it is something smaller than the swift. From the point of the shortest feather in the tail to the point of the beak, it measures about six inches and a half; from the point of the longest about eight inches and a half. The beak is a pale yellow, the upper mandible lightly tinged with brown, short strong convex, and slightly hooked, broad at the base, as in the swallow tribe. The cheeks auriculars, and bottom of the poll a deep blue black. The crown and back part of the head a dark blood red, the feathers long, and apparently capable of being erected and depressed at pleasure. The feathers bordering this red spot are red at the base, and tipped with black, so that when erected, the whole top of the head would have a reddish appearance. The chin and upper part of the throat, as far back as the posterior part of the eye, are of a bright buff yellow; immediately below this, and reaching nearly to the back of the neck is a narrow collar of white. The back of the neck, bottom of the throat and breast, are white, closely barred with black. The shoulders, back, and tail coverts are a bright golden yellow, irregularly barred with black, each feather being whitish at the base, pointed with yellow, and barred with black, as in the sketch of one above. The exterior tail feathers are a deep black, and exceed the longest of the others in length, by about three quarters of an inch. The tail consists of twelve feathers, and the exterior webs of the remaining ten are of dull yellow for about three quarters of their length from the rump. The wings are shorter in proportion to the body than those of the swallow, and they together with the lesser and greater wing coverts are a deep bluish black, with the exception of a dusky white spot on the interior web of the last of the secondaries. The second and third primaries are longer than the others. The vent feathers are of a bright gamboge yellow; the belly and lower part of the body have a bright yellow tinge, and are lightly mottled with black. The legs are a pale flesh colour, longer and better suited to walking than those of the swallow. The colour of the eyes we know not, but the orbits are yellow.

H.

We are aware that some very rare birds have been shot in the vicinity of Dublin, and we shall feel obliged to such correspondents as may furnish us with descriptions. We could ourselves get drawings and descriptions, and would be answerable for the safety of any specimens which may be confided to us for the purpose. White in his Natural History of Selborne, page 125, letter 42, and his editor, Sir W. Jardine, say that Ireland is a country yet unexplored by the naturalist. We should feel happy if the pages of our Journal induced a properly qualified person to investigate our natural productions.

Ed.

SONETTO—DI PETRARCA.

Quel Rossignuol, che si soave piange
Forse suoi figli, o sua cara consorte,
Di dolcezza empie il cielo, e le campagne
Con tante note si pietose, e scorte;
Etutta notte par che m' accompagni,
E mi ramente la mia dura sorte:
Ch'altri che me non ho, di cui mi lagne:
Che'n Dee non credev'io regnasse morte.
O che lieve è ignannar, chi s'assicura:
Que duo bei lumi assai più che 'l sol chiari
Chi pensò mai vender far terra oscura?
Or conosco io, che mia fera ventura
Vuol, che vivendo, e lagrimando impari,
COME nulla quà giu diletta, e dura.

TRANSLATION.

Yon nightingale that pours forth tuneful wail
For its dear mate, or haply for its young,
Fills all the vaulted heaven, and echoing dale,
With such sweet modulated plaintive song;
Methinks it joins my melancholy tale,
Reminding me of woe the whole night long:
That death o'er charms divine could ne'er prevail
I ween'd, but now lament a thought so wrong.
Who seeks security doth vainly stray:
Ah me, that unto murky earth should turn
Those eyes which far outshone the radiant day!
The precept my hard fortune would convey
I now perceive; to live, to weep, and learn
Of every bliss below HOW TRANSIENT is the
stay!

Clarence street, Liverpool.

ANNALS OF DUBLIN,

TRANSLATED FROM THE AUTOGRAPH OF THE FOUR MASTERS IN
THE LIBRARY OF THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

(Continued from page 238.)

1213. Fin O'Brollaghan, the steward of *O'Donnell*, (*Donall Mor*) went to Connaught to collect O'Donnell's tribute. He first went to Carbria of Drumliff, and there at his house, at *Lis an Doill O'Daly*, he visited the poet Muireadhach (Murray) to whom he conveyed his message. Upon coming into the poet's presence, he betrayed symptoms of fear, uneasiness, and caution, (for his lord had advised him to beware of the poet); Murray became enraged at his appearance, and seizing a sharp axe, he struck and slew him on the spot, and then fled into Clanrickard from fear of O'Donnell. When O'Donnell obtained intelligence of this, he arrived at Derrydonnell, (a place in Clanrickard, signifying *O'Donnell's Oak Grove*, so called because O'Donnell had encamped there for a night,) and proceeded to devastate the country by fire and sword, until Mac William de Burgo at last submitted to him. Before de Burgo submitted, he informed *Muireadhach* that he was no longer able to protect him, whereupon the poet fled into Thomond, and placed himself under the protection of Donogh Cairbreach O'Brien: O'Donnell pursued him, and proceeded to plunder and lay waste that country also, whereupon O'Brien ordered Murray to fly into Limerick; whither O'Donnell followed, and pitching his camp at Moneydonnell (so called from that circumstance) laid siege to Limerick. Upon which the inhabitants of Limerick, at O'Donnell's command, expelled Muireadhach, who received no protection until he arrived in Dublin.

O'Donnell, after having performed the visitation of all Connaught, and receiving his tribute from them, returned safe home. Upon his return, he immediately mustered another army, and, marching to Dublin, compelled the inhabitants to expel *Muireadhach* to Scotland. Here the poet, while in exile, composed three poems in praise of O'Donnell, and requesting pardon and peace from him. The third of these poems commences,

á ðomnajtll deaðlam fo rjtē
Oh! Donall, hand of peace.

O'Donnell, being moved at the excellence of his poems, received him to mercy, and gave him lands and protection.

1238. Felix O'Rooney, archbishop of Tuam, who had resigned his bishoprick some time before for the purpose of applying himself more sedulously to devotion, and who had